

CHAPTER – 1D

*James A. "Gus" & Josephine "Laux" Michaels  
50th Anniversary*



This picture above, was taken on August 19, 1984 at the reception held at the Montgomery Ruritan Community Building following their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass at St. Peter's Church in Montgomery.

MRS. PEGGY SHAKE — Social News Editor

# People and events

Deadline for this page is 3 p.m. the day preceding publication and should be submitted within a week of the event

## 50th Anniversary



Photo by Martin Studios

### Mr. and Mrs. James (Gus) Michaels

Mr. and Mrs. James (Gus) Michaels of Montgomery will celebrate their 50th anniversary with a mass of thanksgiving at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 19 in St. Peter's Church, Montgomery. Their children and grandchildren are giving a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Community Building, Montgomery Park. Friends are invited and the couple requested that gifts be omitted. Western square dancing will follow the reception from 4 to 6 p.m.

Josephine Laux and Mr. Michaels were married on Aug. 21, 1934 at St. Patrick's Church, Lincoln, Neb.

They are the parents of four children: James J. of Glendale, Ariz., Mary Jo Gaetano of Glenview, Ill., Thomas of Loogootee and Elizabeth Kavanaugh of Montgomery. There are 18 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

The news item, (Left). appeared in the Washington Times Heard on Aug. 14, 1984 prior to the Celebration of the Gus & Josephine Michaels 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

## 50th Wedding Anniversary



Mr. and Mrs. James A. (Gus) Michaels

Mr. and Mrs. James A. (Gus) Michaels, of Montgomery, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, August 19th, with a reception given by their children and grandchildren, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., in the Community Building at the Montgomery Park. Friends are cordially invited, and the couple requests that gifts be omitted. Western square dancing will follow the reception.

James A. Michaels and the former Josephine Laux were united in marriage on August 21, 1934, in St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. They are the parents of four children, James J. Michaels, of Glendale, Arizona; Mary Jo Gaetano, of Glenview, Illinois; Thomas Michaels, of Loogootee; and Elizabeth Kavanaugh, of Montgomery. There are 18 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

The news item (Above) appeared in the Loogootee the week prior to the Celebration of the Gus & Josephine Michaels 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

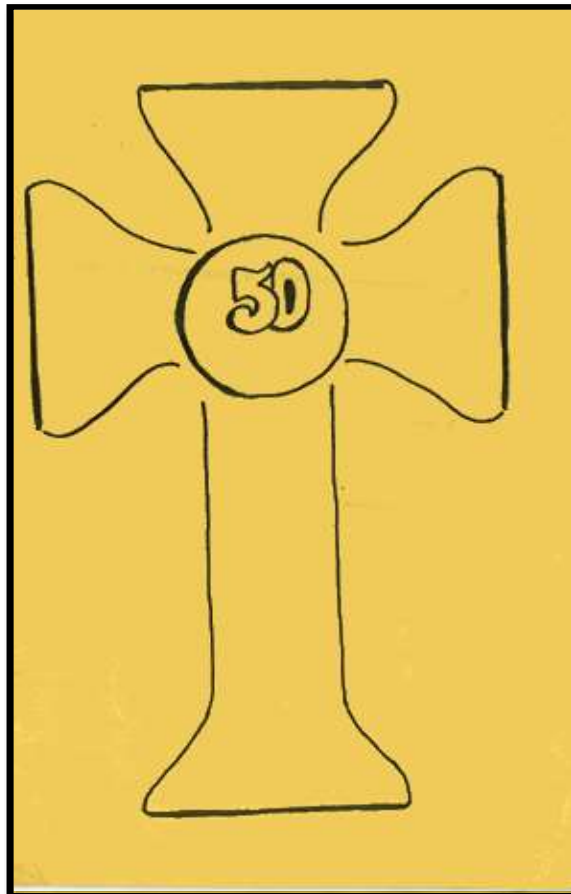




**Ride from the St. Peter's Church to the Reception:** Shown here is Gus & Josephine in the buggy as they arrive from the church to the reception at the Montgomery Ruritan Building. Driving the Buggy was the owner, Sam Burkhart who lived Northwest of Montgomery. I think Sam and his wife just happen to be square dancers with Gus and Jo and they may have suggested the buggy ride to Gus and Jo. Gus was familiar with the horse and buggy as in his early years that is how he got around from his home in the country north of Montgomery. This particular buggy was called a Surry with the frills around the top of the buggy. The ride from the church to the reception was only about a half mile or so and it was a beautiful sunny day with the temperatures in the high 80's.

**Program for the 50th Anniversary Mass:**

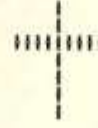
The pages right, are from the Program Book prepared especially for Gus & Josephine Michaels 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Church Ceremony on Aug. 19, 1984. As you can see, many of the Family Members took part in the Mass that special day. An interesting note that happened that day was the singer, Margaret Wichman, thought the service started at 2PM and not 1PM and did not get there till after the first song. Sister Athanasia, who was Josephine's Sister, who also was a Nun played the Organ that day and when the singer did not show up she was in a tissie. Once Margaret Wichman got there, everything went smoothly, but it was a little shaky at the beginning of Mass.



MASS OF THANKSGIVING

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

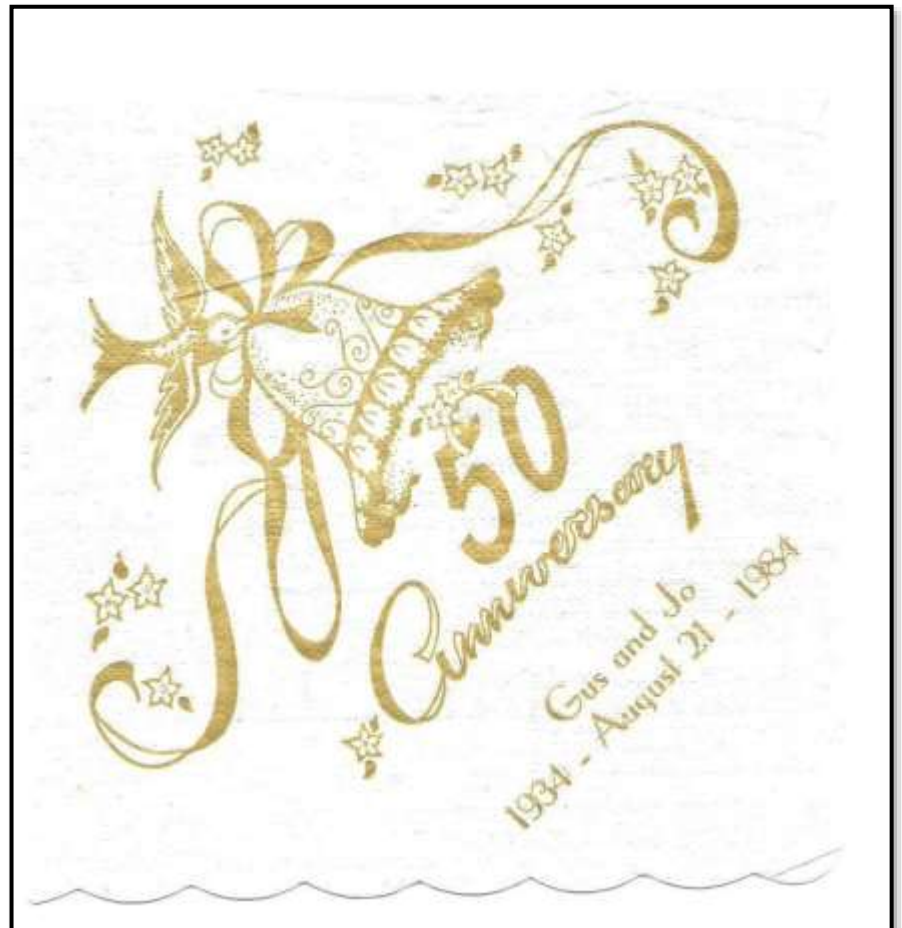
Josephine E. (Laux) and James A. Michaels



Celebrant: Father Art Mergen  
Organist: Sister Athanasia  
Soloist: Margaret Wichman  
Readers: James J. Michaels  
Thomas Michaels  
Eucharistic Ministers: Louis Kavanaugh, Jr.  
James J. Michaels  
Thomas Michaels  
Offering of Gifts: Mary Jo Gaetano  
Elizabeth Kavanaugh  
Servers: Louis Kavanaugh III  
James Kavanaugh

Saint Peter's Church  
Sunday, August 19, 1984  
1:00 P.M.

Napkin for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for Gus & Josephine Michaels Held on Sunday, Aug. 19, 1984. Their Anniversary was on Aug. 21, 1984





**James Augustine “Gus” Michaels & Josephine Eleanor  
“Laux”  
Married on August 21, 1934**

Picture was taken during the reception of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception at the Montgomery Ruritan Building in Montgomery on Sunday Afternoon, August 19, 1984. A reception and Square Dance followed the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass at St. Peter’s Church.

**Their Children**

- 1. James Joseph Michaels**
- 2. Mary Jo “Michaels” Gaetano**
- 3. Thomas Patrick Michaels**
- 4. Elizabeth Ann “Michaels” Kavanaugh**





**Pictured here, are four of the Michaels Brothers.** Shown here is (L-R) Gus Michaels, Elmo Michaels, Omer Michaels and Mack Michaels. John, one of the other brothers, had passed away in 1981. This picture was taken at Gus and Josephine's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary at the Montgomery Ruritan Building on Sunday afternoon on Aug. 19 1984.

**Pictured here in the center is Hope Michaels.** Her husband, John, was a brother to Gus Michaels and the other Michaels Clan. John passed away suddenly in 1981. Hope was there that day with her daughter, Madonna, and Ed Wehner from Dayton Ohio.



Shown here, are some of the Josephine "Laux" Family that attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Pictured here are (L-R) Jim Davis, Mary Benes, Josephine Michaels, Sister Athanasia, Irene Davis and Rosa Fenton. Jim Davis's mother was a sister to Josephine, Mary, Sister Athanasia and Rosa. Jim and his wife Irene, traveled to Montgomery from Omaha, Nebraska, Mary from Lincoln, Nebraska, Sister Athanasia from the Convent in Kentucky and Rosa from Colorado. Josephine's other sister Frances, had passed away in 1981 but her husband, Louis Knopp, was also here for the event.



At the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration for Gus and Josephine was also a big square dance, as for Gus and Jo, Square Dancing was a big part of their life. A big crowd of their friends showed up to dance with them.



More of the family guests were on right side of the table was Helen Michaels, Olga and Omer Michaels and their son Pat. On this side was Sarah "Michaels" Woolsey, (Helen's Daughter).

Pictured right is (L-R) Elmo Michaels, Gus and Josephine Michaels and in the middle is Aunt Mag Walker in wheel chair. Mag was Elmo/Gus's Aunt.







**Pictured here before the celebration began is Sister Athanasia Laux and Louie Knopp.** Louie was married to Frances who was a sister to Sister Athanasia and to Josephine Michaels. Frances passed away over three years prior to this event.



Shown here is Aunt Mag Walker as she attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for her Nephew Gus Michaels and his wife Josephine. Mag was 100 years old at that time and she passed away two months later. Mag had outlived three husbands.